

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012**

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, with Chairman Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner Sharon D. Dillon, and Commissioner Ron Wesen present.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Dahlstedt called the proceedings to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Dahlstedt led the gallery in the salute to the flag and the gallery observed a moment of silence.

III. AGENDA:

a) 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Public Works - Henry Hash, Director:

Henry Hash introduced ER & R Fund Coordinator Mike Elde to discuss the items Skagit County was ready to surplus.

1) Public Hearing/Possible Action: Regarding the Sale of County Surplus Vehicles, Equipment and Furniture

Mr. Elde informed the Commissioners that regular procedures had been followed and Skagit County now needed to hold a public hearing to surplus extra property. He provided the Commissioners with a list of items ready to surplus and said that many of the items were from the Sheriff's Office which included older vehicles previously used by Search and Rescue. Mr. Elde informed the Commissioners that cities, schools, and dike districts had already been given the opportunity to purchase items at blue book value. He said that the items were now being prepared to be auctioned through the James G. Murphy auction on Saturday, October 27, 2012. Items could be previewed at murphyauciton.com.

Commissioner Dillon asked about surplus furniture and Mr. Elde explained that Skagit County re-used furniture in good condition and either recycled or surplused items that were no longer useful.

Commissioner Wesen asked what was charged by the auction company for their services. Mr. Elde said that the company transports the items and keeps 10% of the sale price. Commissioner Wesen and Mr. Elde discussed another auction method used by SKAT. Mr. Elde said that items sell for more through James G. Murphy which is better for Skagit County government and citizens.

Chairman Dahlstedt asked Mr. Elde to describe the ER & R Fund. Mr. Elde said Washington State law required and that each piece of equipment have a replacement fund which is used to collect money each time the item is used. The fund grows with use and is debited for maintenance and replacement costs.

Chairman Dahlstedt opened the public hearing at 8:44 a.m. Seeing no one present to give testimony, Commissioner Dillon made a motion to close the public hearing which was seconded by Commissioner Wesen. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve the Resolution authorizing the disposal of County surplus property (**Resolution No. R20120301**) Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

2) Proclamation - Flood Awareness Week in Skagit County

Mr. Hash introduced Natural Resources Division Manager Dan Berentson to discuss Flood Awareness Week in Skagit County which was from October 2nd through October 5th.

Mr. Berentson shared that the Skagit River had reached flood stage more than 60 times in the last 100 years. He described the emergency response team in place County wide that responds to floods.

The Commissioners commended Skagit County for their efforts in flood preparedness and Commissioner Dillon read the proclamation declaring October 2 through October 5, 2012 as Flood Awareness Week.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 9:11 a.m.

b) 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Decision: Regarding the Creation of a Rural Partial County Library District in the Unincorporated Precincts of the Sedro-Woolley School District

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:00 a.m. to render a decision on matter.

The Commissioners discussed the process to date. Citizens had collected enough signatures as mandated by the State of Washington to bring to the Commissioners to decide whether or not to place on the ballot. Commissioner Wesen discussed how a potential new rural library district would be funded if passed by voters (new tax in rural area of the new district) and he wanted to respect the rights of citizens and allow the proposition to go to the voters.

Commissioner Dillon said that she supported libraries and looked forward to an eventual county-wide library district.

Chairman Dahlstedt agreed that libraries were important and that the citizens would choose whether or not to approve the formation of a new district.

Commissioner Wesen said that if the Commissioners voted to approve placing the question on the ballot, and the voters approved it, then the Commissioners next step would be to appoint the Board of Trustees of the new library district. After the Commissioners appoint the Trustees, then the Trustees take over the process including set up and what amount to tax the voters.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wesen to approve placing the question of a Rural-Partial Library District on the 2012 General Election Ballot for Skagit County. **(Resolution No. R20120302)**
Commissioner Dillon seconded the motion.
The vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 10:09 a.m.

c) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Skagit County Library Directors Update

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 10:30 a.m.

Brian Soneda, Director of the Mount Vernon City Library introduced the other speakers which included Louise Eden, patron of the public libraries; Byran Harrison, City of Burlington Manager; James McCafferty, Economic Development Association of Skagit County Business Advisor; Harold Page, President of the Mount Vernon Library Foundation; and Mindy Coslor, Director of Skagit Valley College Library.

Mr. Soneda thanked the Commissioners, on behalf of all libraries, for their continued support. He said that the speakers would be discussing libraries as economic drivers in communities. He briefed the Commissioners on a "Renew Washington Grant" awarded to the libraries and how programming and services had been improved. He also discussed the partnerships that the libraries had formed with each other and other entities including SKAT Transit. SKAT provided free transportation to the library during their summer reading program.

Patron Louise Eden shared that she visited each library by riding the SKAT bus and had been doing so since 1999. She shared that the libraries in Skagit County have been a great resource for her and enabled her to do the proper research before opening a hat store. She thanked the Commissioners for their support of libraries.

Bryan Harrison also thanked the Commissioners for their continued investment in libraries which provided multiple community benefits. Mr. Harrison shared facts about the Burlington Public Library and said that more services are asked for every year. Mr. Harrison said that the City of Burlington recognizes that libraries provide essential public services.

James McCafferty said that libraries were good partners for creating and building businesses and said that they offered many workshops for new and small businesses. He said that libraries provide essential information to a person needing to make involved decisions about business.

Harold Page shared that books, the arts, and academies nourished the world. He discussed plans for a larger library in the City of Mount Vernon saying that the population had doubled since 1977 when it was built and that the current space was now inadequate. Mr. Page said that communities with strong library systems have a strong culture and are economically stable.

Mindy Coslor shared that academic libraries operate under a different mission to continue students' success and that the Skagit Valley College Library prepared students for lifelong learning. She shared that educated citizens earn more income, pay taxes, and create better communities. She briefed the Commissioners on the services provided by the Skagit Valley College Library. She said that libraries contributed to a community's quality of life and economic well-being. She said that libraries are a good investment in our communities, and would be into the foreseeable future.

The Commissioners thanked the speakers and Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:06 a.m.

d) 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. People 1st of Skagit County, Program Update

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:09 a.m.

President of People First of Skagit County David Wilder invited the Commissioners to the 15th Annual People First of Skagit County Legislative Reception on September 26, 2012. He shared that this annual event was an effective way to come together with state representatives to discuss issues surrounding people with disabilities and their needs. Mr. Wilder shared concerns about proposed budget cuts to Medicare and Medicaid and the impact they would have on services for the disabled. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Wilder for keeping them informed and Chairman Dahlstedt recessed the proceedings at 11:21 a.m.

e) 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Public Comment Period

Chairman Dahlstedt reconvened the proceedings at 11:30 a.m.

After seeing no one present for public comment, a motion was made, which passed unanimously, to close the public comment period.

The Commissioners encouraged the support of our troops and their families and said that there were still forces overseas and in harm's way and veterans coming home with permanent injuries. The Commissioners asked communities to come together and support each other.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dillon to approve warrant No. C 109-12 in the amount of \$17,500 from clearing fund 696.

Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion.

The vote passed unanimously.

f) *4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club Grand Opening Ceremony for "The Club" Teen Center (915 McGarigle Road, Sedro-Woolley)

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Dahlstedt adjourned the proceedings at 11:34 a.m.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Chairman

Sharon D. Dillon, Commissioner

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Hammons, Clerk of the Board